

but have forged international alliances in many areas, including business, tourism and international security.

Greece has also been a source of immigrant communities that have helped build the United States, and Greek-Americans proudly contribute to our society in the arts, sciences, business, politics and sports.

There can be no doubt that Greece faces tough times. The economic downturn has created difficult and ongoing challenges and hardships. Yet, the spirit of Greek Independence is alive and well in Greece and throughout the diaspora. I have no doubt that Greece is going to come back stronger than ever. I am proud to call Greece and the Greek people friends and allies, and the United States cherishes a continued friendship based on mutual values and trust.

RECOGNIZING THE ANNIVERSARY OF THE TAIWAN RELATIONS ACT

HON. VIRGINIA FOXX

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 21, 2013

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, April 10th will mark the 34th anniversary of the Taiwan Relations Act, legislation designed to “help maintain peace, security, and stability in the Western Pacific” and promote the “continuation of commercial, cultural, and other relations” between the American and Taiwanese people.

Since this legislation’s passage, Taiwan has become an economic powerhouse and a beacon of democracy in Southeast Asia. Taiwan is also a major consumer of American products—importing over \$267 million in goods from my home state of North Carolina in 2011. In addition to being our 9th largest trading partner, Taiwan is the largest per capita importer of U.S. farm products in the world.

I am therefore pleased that trade talks between the United States and Taiwan, as part of the Trade and Investment Framework Agreement, began recently after a six-year hiatus. My hope is that these discussions will bear fruit and help strengthen our vibrant commercial partnership with Taiwan.

For these reasons, and many others, it seems appropriate to mark this occasion and highlight my sincere hope that the American and Taiwanese people will continue to work together in friendship to promote shared prosperity and further our mutual interests.

HONORING MILDRED MANNING, ANGEL OF CORREGIDOR

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 21, 2013

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the legacy of a great American woman, Mildred Manning, a World War II Veteran, POW, and nurse in the Army Nurse Corps. Ms. Manning was the last survivor of the 66 nurses who were taken into captivity by the Japanese in May of 1942 on the island of Corregidor.

Ms. Manning was born in rural Georgia on July 11, 1914. She graduated from the Grady

Memorial Hospital School of Nursing in Atlanta and was head nurse at Grady before entering military service when she enlisted in the Army Nurse Corps in 1939.

Ms. Manning was stationed in the Philippines at the time of the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor. She spent the first five months of the war treating servicemen at field hospitals in the Philippines, most notably during the retreat to the Bataan Peninsula, and then on Corregidor. After the U.S. surrender at Corregidor, Ms. Manning was taken prisoner.

She spent the next 33 months under guard at an internment camp, where she faced near-starvation and disease while treating nearly 4,000 men, women, and children. In the winter of 1945, Ms. Manning and the other nurses were finally liberated. For her service to this Nation, Ms. Manning received a Bronze Star and a message of gratitude from President Franklin D. Roosevelt.

Two weeks ago, on March 8, 2013, Ms. Manning passed away in Hopewell, NJ at the age of 98. She is survived by her son, James Manning, and daughter, March Price, five grandchildren and a great-grandson. Her husband, Arthur Brewster Manning, died in 1994 and their youngest son, William D. Manning, died in 2006.

Ms. Manning once said of her internment, “I came out so much better than many of my friends, I have never been bitter, and I have always known that if I could survive that, I could survive anything.”

Mr. Speaker, how privileged I am to be able to honor her life and pay tribute to her outstanding service to this nation.

HELPING HEROES FLY ACT

HON. TULSI GABBARD

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 21, 2013

Ms. GABBARD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of the “Helping Heroes Fly Act.”

I authored this legislation to authorize and improve the Transportation Security Administration’s, TSA, Wounded Warrior/Military Severely Injured Joint Support Operations Program, which facilitates and expedites the passenger screening process for severely injured or disabled members of the Armed Forces and veterans.

Customer service at airport checkpoints is an issue that evokes passionate reactions from constituents across the Nation. As a representative from Hawaii, one of the country’s foremost vacation destinations, I have a special interest in ensuring that the screening experience is as effective and smooth as possible. Unfortunately, too often, we hear stories from our constituents and visitors about time-consuming, inconvenient, and invasive TSA checkpoint searches. For wounded members of the Armed Forces and veterans, however, this ordeal can be a particularly difficult experience due to the nature of both their injuries and disabilities and TSA’s strict screening requirements.

Recognizing the need to improve customer service for all passengers, particularly those with a disability or hindering medical condition, TSA has, in recent years, established several alternative methods of screening, including TSA’s Wounded Warrior Screening Program.

Under the Wounded Warrior Screening Program, a severely injured or disabled service member, veteran, or family member contacts the program’s Operation Center at TSA before a flight to arrange expedited screening. An officer at the Operations Center then notifies the appropriate personnel at the involved airports to ensure that screening is conducted in such a way as to make the screening experience as simple as possible.

The establishment of the Wounded Warrior Screening Program is a positive step. However, through my work on the Committee on Homeland Security, I have spoken with advocates of members of the Armed Forces and veterans and have come to learn that the program could be improved. In particular, as implemented in the field, there is a lack of consistency that needs to be addressed. Some wounded warriors have reported a lack of sensitivity and respect for privacy during the screening experience. Certainly, active engagement with advocate organizations would improve the program and help ensure that it accomplishes its goal.

To improve the program, the “Helping Heroes Fly Act” requires:

TSA to develop a process to expedite screening for severely injured or disabled members of the Armed Forces and veterans that protects the privacy of the individual being screened; requires TSA to consult with advocacy organizations to ensure that TSA is addressing the needs of wounded warriors to the best of their ability; mandates training of Transportation Security Officers on the expedited screening process protocols; requires TSA to maintain an operations center that severely injured or disabled members of the Armed Forces and veterans can contact for assistance in advance of flying; and requires TSA to report to Congress on its progress in implementing the screening our Nation’s wounded warriors and veterans deserve.

Mr. Speaker, the “Helping Heroes Fly Act” is an important, bipartisan bill, crafted in consultation with advocacy organizations.

It comes in response to documented grievances associated with airport checkpoints and represents an important step we can take in acknowledging the service of our Nation’s heroes.

Just this week, we got reports of the difficulty a Marine at Phoenix’s Sky Harbor airport had during the screening process.

The “Helping Heroes Fly Act” will ensure TSA establishes the policies that will allow them to do so.

I urge my colleagues to support the “Helping Heroes Fly Act” so that we can ease the screening process for my fellow service members and show them the respect and honor they have earned.

With that, Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

IN RECOGNITION OF AMERICAN RED CROSS MONTH

HON. EMANUEL CLEAVER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 21, 2013

Mr. CLEAVER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of March as American Red Cross Month. For over 130 years the American Red